

PRE

They are enforced of very necessity to *press* the best and greatest part of their men out of the West countries, which is no small charge. *Raleigh.*

The endeavour to raise new men for the recruit of the army by *pressing*, found opposition in many places. *Clarendon.*

The peaceful peasant to the wars is *press'd*,
The fields lie fallow in inglorious rest. *Dryden.*

Must grandson Filbert to the wars be *press'd*.
You were *press'd* for the sea-service, and got off with much ado. *Gay.*

To *press*. *v. n.*
1. To act with compulsive violence; to urge; to distress.

If there be fair proofs on the one side, and none at all on the other, and if the most *pressing* difficulties be on that side, on which there are no proofs, this is sufficient to render one opinion very credible, and the other altogether incredible. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

A great many uneasinesses always soliciting the will, it is natural, that the greatest and most *pressing* should determine it to the next action. *Lecke.*

2. To go forward with violence to any object.

I make bold to *press*
With so little preparation. *Shakespeare.*

I *press* toward the mark for the prize. *Phil. iii. 14.*

The Turks gave a great shout, and *press'd* in on all sides, to have entered the breach. *Kneller.*

Thronging crowds *press* on you as you pass,
And with their eager joy make triumph flow. *Dryden.*

Th' insulting victor *presses* on the more,
And treads the steps the vanquish'd trod before. *Dryden.*

She is always drawn in a posture of walking, it being as natural for Hope to *press* forward to her proper objects, as for Fear to fly from them. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*

Let us not therefore faint, or be weary in our journey, much less turn back or sit down in despair; but *press* cheerfully forward to the high mark of our calling. *Rogers.*

3. To make invasion; to encroach.

On superior powers
Were we to *press*, inferior might on ours. *Pope.*

4. To crowd; to throng.

For he had healed many, inasmuch that they *press'd* upon him for to touch him. *Mar. iii. 10.*

Counsel the may; and I will give thy ear
The knowledge first of what is fit to hear:
What I transact with others or alone,
Beware to learn; nor *press* too near the throne. *Dryden.*

5. To come unseasonably or importunately.

He *press'd* upon them greatly; and they turned in. *Gen.*

The less blood he drew, the more he took of treasure; and, as some construed it, he was the more sparing in the one, that he might be the more *pressing* in the other. *Bacon.*

So thick the shiv'ring army stands,
And *press* for passage with extended hands. *Dryden.*

7. To act upon or influence.

When arguments *press* equally in matters indifferent, the safest method is to give up ourselves to neither. *Addison.*

8. To *press* upon. To invade; to push against.

Patroclus *presses* upon Hector too boldly, and by obliging him to fight, discovers it was not the true Achilles. *Pope.*

9. To *press* upon. To invade; to push against.

1. The instrument by which any thing is crushed or squeezed.

The *press* is full, the fats overflow. *Jas. iii. 12.*

When one came to the *press* fats to draw out fifty vessels out of the *press*, there were but twenty. *Hag. ii. 16.*

The stomach and intestines are the *press*, and the lacteal vessels the strainers, to separate the pure emulsion from the faeces. *Arbutnot.*

They kept their cloaths, when they were not worn, constantly in a *press*, to give them a lustre. *Arbutnot.*

2. The instrument by which books are printed.

These letters are of the second edition; he will print them out of doubt, for he cares not what he puts into the *press*, when he would put us two in. *Shakespeare.*

3. Crowd; tumult; throng.

Paul and Barnabas, when infidels admiring their virtues, went about to sacrifice unto them, rent their garments in token of horror, and as frightened, ran crying through the *press* of the people, O men wherefore do ye these things. *Hooker.*

She held a great gold chain link'd well,
Whose upper end to highest heaven was knit,
And lower part did reach to lowest hell,
And all that *press'd* did round about her swell,
To catchen hold of that long chain. *Fairy Queen.*

Who is it in the *press* that calls on me?
I hear a tongue, shriller than all the musick,
Cry, Caesar. *Shakespeare. Julius Caesar.*

Death having prey'd upon the outward parts,
Leaves them insensible; his siege is now
Against the mind; the which he picks and wounds
With many legions of strange fantasies;

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Which in their throngs, and *press* to that last hold,
Confound themselves. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

Ambitious Turnus in the *press* appears,
And aggravating crimes augment their fears. *Dryden.*

A new express all Agra does affright,
Darah and Aurengzebe are join'd in fight;
The *press* of people thickens to the court,
Th' impatient croud devouring the report. *Dryden.*

Through the *press* enrag'd Thalestis flies,
And scatters deaths around from both her eyes. *Pope.*

4. A kind of wooden case or frame for cloaths and other uses.

Creep into the kill hole.—Neither *press*, coffer, chest, trunk; but he hath an abstract for the remembrance of such places. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

5. A commission to force men into military service. For *press*.
If I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am a fow'd garnet; I have misus'd the king's *press* damnably. *Shakespeare.*

Concerning the mullets and *presses* for sufficient mariners to serve in his majesty's ships, either the care is very little, or the bribery very great. *Raleigh.*

PRE'SSED. *n. s.* [*press* and *bed*.] Bed so formed, as to be shut up in a case.

PRE'SSER. *n. s.* [from *press*.] One that presses or works at a press.

PRE'SSING. *n. s.* [from *press*.] A crew that strols about the streets to force men into naval service.

PRE'SSINGLY. *adv.* [from *pressing*.] With force; closely.

The one contracts his words, speaking *pressingly* and short; the other delights in long-breathed accents. *Ham.*

PRE'SSION. *n. s.* [from *press*.] The act of pressing.

If light confisted only in *pression*, propagated without actual motion, it would not be able to agitate and heat the bodies, which reflect and reflect it: if it confisted in motion, propagated to all distances in an instant, it would require an infinite force every moment, in every shining particle, to generate that motion; and if it confisted in *pression* or motion, propagated either in an instant or in time, it would bend into the shadow. *Newton's Opticks.*

PRE'SSANT. *adj.* Gravitating; heavy. A word not in use.

Neither the celestial matter of the vortices, nor the air, nor water are *pressant* in their proper places. *Mars.*

PRE'SSMAN. *n. s.* [*press* and *man*.]

1. One who forces another into service; one who forces away.

One only path to all; by which the *pressmen* came. *Chap.*

2. One who makes the impression of print by the press; distinct from the compositor, who ranges the types.

PRE'SSMONEY. *n. s.* [*press* and *money*.] Money given to a soldier when he is taken or forced into the service.

Here Peasgood, take my pouch, 'tis all I own,
'Tis my *pressmoney*.—Can this silver fail? *Gay.*

PRE'SSURE. *n. s.* [from *press*.]

1. The act of pressing or crushing.

2. The state of being pressed or crushed.

3. Force acting against any thing; gravitation; pression.

The inequality of the *pressure* of parts appeareth in this; that if you take a body of stone, and another of wood of the same magnitude and shape, and throw them with equal force, you cannot throw the wood so far as the stone. *Bacon.*

Although the glasses were a little convex, yet this transparent spot was of a considerable breadth, which breadth seemed principally to proceed from the yielding inwards of the parts of the glasses, by reason of their mutual *pressure*. *Newton.*

The blood flows through the vessels by the excess of the force of the heart above the incumbent *pressure*, which in fat people is excessive. *Arbutnot.*

4. Violence inflicted; oppression.

A wife father ingenuously confessed, that those, which persuaded *pressure* of consciences, were commonly interested therein. *Bacon's Essays.*

5. Affliction; grievance; distress.

Mine own and my people's *pressures* are grievous, and peace would be very pleasing. *King Charles.*

The genuine price of lands in England would be twenty years purchase, were it not for accidental *pressures* under which it labours. *Child's Discourse of Trade.*

To this consideration he retreats, in the midst of all his *pressures*, with comfort; in this thought, notwithstanding the sad afflictions with which he was overwhelmed, he mightily exults. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

Excellent was the advice of Elephas to Job, in the midst of his great troubles and *pressures*, acquaint thyself now with God, and be at peace. *Atterbury.*

6. Impression; stamp; character made by impression.

From my memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records,
All faws of books, all forms, all *pressures* past,
That youth and observation copy'd there. *Shakespeare.*

PRE'ST. *adj.* [*press* or *pret*, Fr.]

1. Ready; not dilatory. This is said to have been the original sense of the word *press* men; men, not forced into the service, as now we understand it, but men, for a certain sum received, *press* or ready to march at command. *Each.*

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Each mind is *press'd*, and open every ear,
To hear new tidings, though they no way joy us. *Fairfax.*

Gritus desired nothing more than, at his first entrance, to have confirmed the opinion of his authority in the minds of the vulgar people, by the *press* and ready attendance of the Vayvod. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

2. Neat; tight. In both senses the word is obsolete.

More wealth any where, to be brece
More people, more handsome and *press'd*
Where find ye? *Tusser's Husbandry.*

PREST. *n. s.* [*press*, Fr.] A loan.

He required of the city a *prest* of six thousand marks; but, after many parleys, he could obtain but two thousand pounds. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

PRESTIGATION. *n. s.* [*prestigatio*, Lat.] A deceiving; a juggling; a playing legerdemain. *Di.*

PRESTIGES. *n. s.* [*prestigie*, Lat.] Illusions; impostures; juggling tricks. *Di.*

PRESTO. *n. s.* [*presto*, Italian.] Quick; at once. A word used by those that show legerdemain.

Press! begone! 'tis here again;
There's ev'ry piece as big as ten. *Swift.*

PRESUMABLY. *adv.* [from *presume*.] Without examination.

Authors *presumably* writing by common places, wherein, for many years, promiscuously amassing all that make for their subject, break forth at last into useless rhapsodies. *Brown.*

To PRESUME. *v. n.* [*presumer*, Fr. *presume*, Lat.]

1. To suppose; to believe previously without examination.

O much deceiv'd, much failing, hapless Eve!
Of thy *presum'd* return! event perverse!
Experience supplants the use of conjecture in the point; we do not only *presume* it may be so, but actually find it is so. *Government of the Tongue.*

2. To suppose; to affirm without immediate proof.

Although in the relation of Moses there be very few persons mentioned, yet there are more to be *presumed*. *Brown.*

I *presume*,
That as my hand has open'd bounty to you,
My heart dropp'd love; my pow'r rain'd honour more
On you, than any. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

3. To venture without positive leave.

There was a matter we were no less desirous to know, than fearful to ask, lest we might *presume* too far. *Bacon.*

4. To form confident or arrogant opinions.

The life of Ovid being already written in our language, I will not *presume* to far upon myself, to think I can add any thing to Mr. Sandys his undertaking. *Dryden.*

This man *presumes* upon his parts, that they will not fail him at time of need, and so thinks it superfluous labour to make any provision beforehand. *Locke.*

5. To make confident or arrogant attempts.

In this we fail to perform the thing, which God seeth meet, convenient and good; in that we *presume* to see what is meet and convenient, better than God himself. *Hooker.*

God, to remove his ways from human sense,
Plac'd heav'n from earth so far, that earthly light,
If it *presume*, might err in things too high,
And no advantage gain. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. viii.*

6. It has on or upon sometimes before the thing supposed, or causing presumption.

He, that would not deceive himself, ought to build his hypothesis on matter of fact, and not *presume* on matter of fact, because of his hypothesis. *Locke.*

Luther *presumes* upon the gift of continency. *Atterbury.*

7. It has of sometimes, but not properly.

Presuming of his force, with sparkling eyes,
Already he devours the promis'd prize. *Dryden.*

PRESUMER. *n. s.* [from *presume*.] One that presupposes; an arrogant person.

Heavy with some high minds is an overweight of obligation; otherwise great deliverers do grow intolerable *presumers*. *Watton.*

PRESUMPTION. *n. s.* [*presumptio*, Lat. *presumption*, Fr.]

1. Supposition previously formed.

Thou hast shew'd us how unsafe it is to offend thee, upon *presumptions* afterwards to please thee. *King Charles.*

Though men in general believed a future state, yet they had but confused *presumptions* of the nature and condition of it. *Rag.*

2. Confidence grounded on any thing presupposed.

A *presumption*, upon this aid, was the principal motive for the undertaking. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Those at home held their immoderate engrossments of power by no other tenure, than their own *presumption* upon the necessity of affairs. *Swift's Miscellanies.*

3. An argument strong, but not demonstrative; a strong probability.

The error and insufficiency of their arguments doth make it, on the contrary side against them, a strong *presumption*, that God hath not moved their hearts to think such things, as he hath not enabled them to prove. *Hooker, b. v. f. 10.*

4. Arrogance; confidence blind and adventurous; presumptuousness.

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Let my *presumption* not provoke thy wrath;
For I am sorry, that with reverence
I did not entertain thee as thou art. *Shakespeare.*

It warns a wariar carriage in the things,
Left blind *presumption* work their ruining. *Daniel.*

I had the *presumption* to dedicate to you a very unfinish'd piece. *Dryden.*

5. Unreasonable confidence of divine favour.

The awe of his majesty will keep us from *presumption*, and the promises of his mercy from despair. *Rogers.*

PRESUMPTIVE. *adj.* [*presumptive*, Fr. from *presume*.]

1. Taken by previous supposition.

We commonly take shape and colour for so *presumptive* ideas of several species, that, in a good picture, we readily say this is a lion, and that a rose. *Locke.*

2. Supposed; as, the presumptive heir: opposed to the heir apparent.

3. Confident; arrogant; presumptuous.

There being two opinions repugnant to each other, it may not be *presumptive* or sceptical to doubt of both. *Brown.*

PRESUMPTUOUS. *adj.* [*presumptueux*, Fr.]

1. Arrogant; confident; insolent.

Presumptuous priest, this place commands my patience. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

I follow him not
With any token of *presumptuous* suit;
Nor would I have him, till I do deserve him. *Shakespeare.*

The boldness of advocates prevail with judges; whereas they should imitate God, who reprehends the *presumptuous*, and giveth grace to the modest. *Bacon's Essays.*

Their minds somewhat rais'd
By false *presumptuous* hope. *Milton.*

Some will not venture to look beyond received notions of the age, nor have to *presumptuous* a thought, as to be wiser than their neighbours. *Locke.*

2. Irreverent with respect to holy things.

Thus I *presumptuous*; and the vision bright,
As with a smile more brighten'd, thus reply'd. *Milton.*

The pow'r's incens'd
Punish'd his *presumptuous* pride,
That for his daring enterprize the dy'd. *Dryden.*

Can't thou love
Presumptuous Crete, that boasts the tomb of Jove. *Pope.*

PRESUMPTUOUSLY. *adv.* [from *presumptuous*.]

1. Arrogantly; irreverently.

Do you, who study nature's works, decide,
Whilst I the dark mysterious cause admire;
Nor, into what the gods conceal, *presumptuously* enquire. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

2. With vain and groundless confidence in divine favour.

I entreat your prayers, that God will keep me from all premature persuasion of my being in Christ, and not suffer me to go on *presumptuously* or desperately in any course. *Hamm.*

PRESUMPTUOUSNESS. *n. s.* [from *presumptuous*.] Quality of being presumptuous; confidence; irreverence.

PRESUPPOSAL. *n. s.* [*præ* and *supposal*.] Supposal previously formed.

All things necessary to be known that we may be saved, but known with *presupposal* of knowledge concerning certain principles, whereof it receiveth us already persuaded. *Hooker.*

To PRESUPPOSE. *v. a.* [*presupposer*, Fr. *præ* and *supposer*.]

To suppose as previous.

In as much as righteous life *presupposeth* life, in as much as to live virtuously it is impossible except we live; therefore the first impediment, which naturally we endeavour to remove, is penury and want of things, without which we cannot live. *Hooker, b. i. f. 10.*

All kinds of knowledge have their certain bounds; each of them *presupposeth* many necessary things learned in other sciences, and known beforehand. *Hooker, b. i.*

PRESUPPOSITION. *n. s.* [*præ* and *supposition*, Fr. *præ* and *supposition*.] Supposition previously formed.

PRESUMISE. *n. s.* [*præ* and *surmise*.] Surmise previously formed.

It was your *presurmise*,
That, in the dole of blows, your son might drop. *Shakespeare.*

PRETENCE. *n. s.* [*pretensio*, Lat.]

1. A false argument grounded upon fictitious postulates.

This *pretence* against religion will not only be baffled, but we shall gain a new argument to persuade men over. *Tillotson.*

2. The act of showing or alleging what is not real.

With flying speed and seeming great *pretence*
Came running in a messenger. *Fairy Queen.*

So strong his appetite was to those executions he had been accus'd to in Ireland, without any kind of committion or *pretence* of authority. *Clarendon.*

O worthy not of liberty alone,
Too mean *pretence*, but honour.

Let not the Trojans, with a feign'd *pretence*
Of proffer'd peace, delude the Latian prince. *Dryden.*

I should have dress'd the whole with greater care; but I had little time, which I am sure you know to be more than *pretence*. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*

3. Assumption;